



EXHIBIT 7
DATE 3-20-07
SB 265

March 19, 2007

TO: Members of the House Business Committee

FROM: Del Lonnquist, volunteer advocate AARP Montana

RE: Support of SB 265 Premiums for MCHA

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Del Lonnquist, volunteer advocate for AARP Montana and our 154,000 members in this state. We are here today to support SB 265 because the MCHA is an important source of health insurance for people ages 50 to 64.

MCHA is our health insurance of "last resort", a high risk pool providing coverage when you are turned down by other insurers for individual coverage. The premiums for MCHA coverage are over \$1,000 / month for some people. This bill will allow MCHA to subsidize coverage for more low-income Montanans if funds are available. People with health conditions need affordable health insurance to remain productive members of our communities.

For this reason, we urge your support of SB 265.